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New report showing number of empty units has plummeted



A drive to cut the number of vacant retail units throughout Banbury's town centre has seen empty shops drop to seven per cent

MORE SHOPS OPENING UP

SHOP owners and councillors have welcomed the news that the number of empty shops in Banbury has fallen for the second year running.

New figures released by Cherwell District Council show 33 ground-floor retail and hospitality units in the town centre were vacant last month, compared with 40 in the same period last year. That represented a fall of almost 20 per cent.

In total, seven per cent of the shops in Banbury were found to be empty.

Richard Singlehurst, who owns menswear store Union Clothing in High Street, said the increase in operational shop units had shown a strong effect on footfall and the town's economy.

He said: "We moved to Banbury in July, but we find it very promising here. "We are taking more money than we had forecast and lately we've seen a lot of people coming into the town."

"I think that if you are a retailer and you are doing it right – selling the right things – the more chance there is that people will come to your shop."

There were 53 empty units in Banbury in early 2014, when the district council first collected the figures.

Of the 33 units still empty, as of November, five are in Bridge Street – al-

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though only four are on the market – and nine are in High Street. Of these, two are under offer and one is being prepared for renovation to its upper floors.

Recently opened premises include the Little Amsterdam pancake house in North Bar, discount chain 99p Stores in Bridge Street, and estate agency Fine & Country in South Bar.

Work to fill empty units has been overseen by two team co-ordinators from the district council.

Their role is to boost footfall in the town centre, work with landlords and agents to reduce the number of empty units, and look at opportunities to bring pop-up shops to Banbury.

Two retailers have taken advantage of the initiative so far: womenswear and accessories shop Kt-Lu's in Parson's Street, with a two-month stay, and Adderbury-based baby clothing wholesaler Merrygoround UK, in Church Lane.

The town council leader, and district council lead member for Banbury Futures, Kieron Mallon, praised the

work in ensuring more units were filled.

He said: "Cherwell District Council is committed to continue working with landlords and agents to overcome barriers to the remaining empty ground-floor units being let."

"The number of vacant shops is an encouraging sign the council's work with the town team co-ordinators is reaping positive results."

The news comes after district councillors approved plans for a Waitrose store outside the town centre, in Southam Road. The decision drew criticism from people who said they thought it would cause traffic problems on an already congested road into town.

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Railway disruptions due to engineering

TRAIN passengers have been warned to expect disruptions to services because of engineering work over the Christmas period.

Work will take place between December 24 and January 3, and includes the closure of the line between Slough and London Paddington.

This means Great Western Railway passengers from Oxford to London can catch hourly trains to Marylebone calling at Banbury only. There will be a revised timetable between December 29 to January 3.

On Sunday, December 27 there will be two trains an hour between Oxford and Slough via Reading, and on December 28 there will be four trains an hour between Oxford and Reading.

Passengers from Didcot Parkway have also been warned that no trains will be running to or from London Paddington on December 27 and December 28, but there will be three trains every hour towards Oxford.

There will be no trains running on the network on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and the last trains on Christmas



London-bound travellers will have to use Banbury station

Eve will depart before 9.30pm.

Independent railway campaigner Hugh Jaeger said despite the engineering work, new services to London from Oxford Parkway meant there would be less disruption for passengers.

He said: "The developments this year put us in a much better position than in the past."

For more information and revised timetables visit gwr.com/travel-updates.

Stock up on winter medicines and get a first aid kit, says group

A WELL-STOCKED winter medicine cabinet could make all the difference over the winter months, according to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group.

The body is advising Oxfordshire residents to make a checklist of essential items, including pain relief, antihistamines, indigestion treatments and rehydration salts to see them through to the New Year.

People are also being urged to make sure they have a first-aid kit handy for any bumps and bruises over the festive

season. Items at the top of the list include bandages, plasters, a thermometer, sterile dressings and tweezers.

Clinical chairman Dr Joe McManners said: "Many people also keep a small first aid kit in their car for emergencies. Your medicine cabinet should be locked and kept in a cool, dry place and out of reach of children."

He added: "Always follow the directions on medicine packets and information leaflets and never take more than the stated dose."



Celebrating the refurbishment of The Orchard are recovery co-ordinator for Restore Fran Rimmer, front, with, back from left, volunteer Frankie Ostrowski, Restore members Dee Oliver and Francesca Tompkins, and recovery worker Jacqui Vincent-Potter

Shop restored and filled with crafts made by people in county

A RAINBOW of colours was splashed across a Banbury shop filled with handmade treats crafted by people across the county.

Mental health charity Restore relaunched its charity shop in Calthorpe Street last month after volunteers spent hours revamping the space.

The shop is stocked with crafts made by people using the charity's recovery and

coaching services, which are based across Oxfordshire.

Recovery coordinator Fran Rimmer said: "It has been exciting to become involved in such a positive project and to see how much people with mental health issues gain from participating in activity on the road to recovery and hopefully back into employment with the support of our coaches."

"Members have met new friends, enjoyed what they do, learnt new skills, problem solved, gained a sense of pride and have a sense of achievement. I continue to be astounded by the standard of work and creativity that members have."

The store was officially opened in November 26 after a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Bin rounds earlier for holiday refuse

Household collections due on Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be moved to start of weeks

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DUSTBIN collection times over Christmas in Cherwell will affect households whose usual collection day is Friday.

Residents who have a bin collection that would fall on Christmas Day will be rescheduled for collection four days earlier, on Monday, December 21.

The following collection, meant for New Year's Day, will also take place earlier, on Monday, December 28.

The Cherwell District Council lead member for clean and green, Debbie Pickford, said: "We want to get the message out early about the two changes to our bin collections over the festive break."

"On the whole, the majority of collections will take place as normal, but on Christmas Day and New Year's Day we will be giving our crews a well-deserved rest."

She added: "With so much additional rubbish generated over the Christmas period, we would urge residents to make a note of the changes now, so they remember to put their bins out in advance of their usual collection day."

"Much of the Christmas waste – such as packaging, wrapping and boxes – can be recycled and crews will happily



Cherwell is urging households to make use of recycling opportunities this Christmas

take extra recycling for the blue bin, if it is left contained in cardboard boxes next to the bin."

There will also be changes to the usual opening times at Cherwell District Council offices at Bodicote House in Banbury and the authority's various link points in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.

They will run on their normal opening

hours until Wednesday, December 23, but then they will close at 5.15pm that day and remain closed until Monday, December 28, inclusive.

The offices will also close early for New Year's Eve, at 4pm on Thursday, December 31, be closed on the New Year's Day bank holiday. A normal service resumes from 8.45am on Monday, January 4.

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Standards of taxis are 'very high'

NEARLY 30 taxis were hauled up in a safety spot-check in Banbury that revealed "extremely high" standards.

A partnership between Cherwell District Council and Thames Valley Police is working to ensure taxis in Banbury are up to scratch heading into the busy season.

As the demand for taxis is expected to rise through the Christmas period, a spot-check operation found the overall standard to be extremely high.

Cherwell District Council lead member for public protection Tony Flott said: "Where we discovered problems, these were of a minor nature – mostly faulty lights."

"We also suspended one vehicle that had tyre treads being below the taxi licensing requirement and noted faults on two vehicles licensed by neighbouring authorities."

"It is important that the public know that they can trust that vehicles they hire are safe."

The spot-check was held on Friday, November 27, to make sure vehicles licensed by the council were legal and met all public safety standards.

Powerful way to learn solar

Pupils find out about electricity as school reduces energy bills

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HOW can you teach children about climate change, reduce your energy bills for 20 years and raise £50,000 for local community projects at the same time?

Answer: Install 384 solar panels on the roof of their school.

That is what Orchard Fields Community School in Banbury did and it now has the largest solar power scheme run by any primary school in Oxfordshire.

After going live in November, the school can sell its electricity to the national grid. Profits will be passed on to the community.

The school will get discounted renewable electricity for two decades.

Orchard Fields is one of 23 solar schools hooked up to direct energy from the sun in a scheme run by Oxford's Low Carbon Hub, which is working with Joju Solar.

The aim is for installations to prevent the emission of up to 5,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, while generating up to £50,000 a year for more community energy projects.

Some 11,000 children use the scheme to

learn about climate change.

The Orchard Fields chairman of governors, John Christie, said: "This project has been an invaluable exercise in educating our pupils on the importance for us all to explore the possibility of using renewable resources for our energy."

The project marks a technological innovation, as it uses a new "export limitation" device to generate the maximum amount of clean energy possible without overheating the cable between the school and the sub-station.

Schools project manager Anthony Simpson said: "Children can monitor how much energy the panels are generating relative to the weather."



Chairman of governors John Christie with children and the solar panel roof

French flavour at market rendezvous



Trader Angelique Remy returned to Banbury with her Hat World stall

FOODIES had a early festive treat as Banbury's continental market returned, with traders and food from different countries.

Stalls in Market Place sold goods ranging from freshly-cooked baguettes to hog roasts.

Most of the traders involved last Friday were from France, including Lulu Legallaise who ran a cheese stall.

She said: "Banbury is very nice. We like the people here and we like coming to sell our cheese. The weather is like the Cote d'Azur".

Also on offer were craft, fashion and home decorations, sweets and crepes.

Angelique Remy, who brought her Hat World stall, said: "I like Banbury and I like my customers here."

"They wait for us to come because we always bring new styles."

The continental market is organised by Savoir-Fayre in association with Cherwell District Council.

When it was last held in Banbury, in March, there were more than 50 stalls selling bread, cheese and pastries.



Cheese purveyor Lulu Legallaise with fellow stallholder Paul Patey

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A perceived lack of footballing opportunities has led to the call to help with a participation questionnaire

Football scheme looks for players

Fans asked to take part in an online survey to gauge interest in new initiative

Annabal Bagdi
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THE hunt is on for more footballers across Banbury, with a new pay-as-you-go programme being unveiled to address what is seen as a town shortage.

Football supporters are being called upon to help shape the future of sporting activities across the town, because of a lack of opportunities.

Cherwell District Council has teamed up with the Oxfordshire FA in a drive to combat the low number of casual 11-a-side ac-

tivities operating in Banbury.

They have launched an online survey and need feedback from the town's residents interested in supporting a new pay-as-you-play club.

Deputy leader of the council George Reynolds said: "There are a lot of men and women who are eager to play 11-a-side football but who cannot commit to the training and fixtures of a club due to work or personal commitments.

"This notion would offer a more relaxed approach, whereby people can come along and play as and when suits them, without having to commit to anything long term.

"In launching this initiative we want to get it right and ensure it will meet the needs of as many people as possible.

"By completing the survey, we

will be able to get a better idea of the costs, times and dates that will either encourage or deter people so we can build the new club around those who will be using it."

The council and Oxfordshire FA hope to provide opportunities for people unable to commit to full-time programmes.

Residents need to complete the survey by January 1.

Oxfordshire FA's development manager, Sarah Wood, said: "People's lifestyles are changing and we need to ensure that football opportunities adapt to these changes as well.

"By speaking directly with our football fans in Banbury, we can shape our offer to meet their needs."

To complete the questionnaire visit tiny.cc/banburyfootballsurvey.

Activators challenge youngsters to beat 77 ball bounces record

YOUNGSTERS have been challenged to their final Cherwell District Council fitness task this year in a bid to beat the activators.

Each month, the council set a 30-second challenge for kids around the district to help get young people more active.

The final challenge involves bouncing a ball on the palm of their hand and seeing whether they can beat 77 bounces; the goal set by the activators.

Cherwell District Council deputy leader George Reynolds said: "This will be the last Beat the Activator Challenge before

Christmas so it is the last chance for participants to win a voucher in 2015.

"Although the challenge itself does sound relatively straightforward, it will test the hand-eye coordination and concentration of the participants.

"The Beat the Activator Challenges are not designed to push youngsters to the limit in the same way adult fitness challenges are.

"They are intended to be a fun way to get youngsters moving and thinking about the various ways they can be active with

simple and enjoyable challenges."

For this challenge Cherwell District Council are offering a £10 Amazon voucher for entrants who put forward their scores, for a winner to be pulled from a prize draw.

The demonstration video can be viewed online and children are asked to record their own scores and submit this to activators at Cherwell.

To view the challenge see, cherwell.gov.uk/youngpeople and to submit your score see, facebook.com/cherwelldistrictcouncil

TAKEAWAY FACING FINE

BANBURY: The owners of a takeaway in Middleton Road could face a fine of up to £40,000 after a visit from Home Office immigration enforcement officers.

A Pakistani man, 49, who had overstayed a visit visa, was held at BFC takeaway and another, 27, lacked permission to work. BFC was asked to show if document checks were done.

WORK FOR SOME FIREWOOD

OXON: Free wood fuel scheme Logs for Labour, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment programme promoting sustainable use of firewood, is back.

Volunteers help to manage woodlands in return for logs at events most weekends in the winter. Volunteers need gloves and a saw. See oxonwoodfuel.org.uk/logs-for-labour or call 01865 243488.

SCHOOL'S CONSTRUCTION

BANBURY: Construction of a £2m two-storey building at Hill View Primary School, which is due for completion by summer 2016, is being overseen by Stepnell in Wantage.

The building, funded by the county council, will have eight classrooms and a hall, plus additional accommodation to cater for a rise in pupil numbers.

BUY GIFTS TO AID CHARITY

OXON: Animal lovers are being asked to buy gifts from an online Christmas list for RSPCA Oxfordshire.

Supporters can see the Amazon wishlist and choose an item to buy.

Gifts include cat food, chew toys, treats and baskets, costing from £3.

For more information or to donate visit tinyurl.com/nvryjkc.

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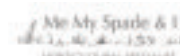
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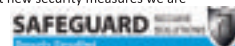
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Most honest year ever

Detectorist Paul Jones, of Highlands Farm in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, who found a 3,000-year-old axe head

Honourable detectorists are declaring their finds while night hawkers lurk

Pete Hughes
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HONEST history buffs are winning the battle against plundering thieves, with new figures revealing more finds dug up in Oxfordshire have been declared to the authorities in 2015 than ever before.

A Viking hoard of ingots and jewellery, gold rings, and Roman coins are among the 41 treasures in 2015 – a 46 per cent increase on the 36 found in 2014.

And the reason for the rise, say authorities, is an increase in honest metal detectorists who are beating “night hawkers” – thieving treasure hunters – to all the best finds.

Detectorist Paul Jones, who recently dug up a Bronze Age axe head in south Oxfordshire, said more finds being declared was great for the hobby and good for historians.

The father-of-two, who took up treasure hunting three years ago, estimated the number of detectorists has doubled in the past five years.

Mr Jones, 57, who runs a cabinet-making and joinery business, said night hawkers were the scourge of his pastime.

He said: “There’s so much trespassing with people detecting where they shouldn’t be: they are a scourge but there is money in it.”

“Night hawkers are only in it to find silver and gold coins to sell.”

He refused to reveal the location of the field where he found his axe head for fear the farm



A rare mirror, found near Didcot

owner would have to deal with more threatening and dangerous thieves.

He said: “He’s seen them out in the field in broad daylight but what can he do?”

“He’s called the police before: you go over to these guys and they’ve got a great big spade in their hand, they’re usually bolshie and you’re trying to get them off your land.”

The trade in stolen treasure is fed by private collectors who advertise for treasure “no questions asked” in the back of metal detecting magazines and scour eBay for finds.

Mr Jones, who lives with his wife in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell near Wallingford, said he knew of a couple of night hawkers but refused to speak to them.

He said: “A friend of mine was walking on Wittenham Clumps near Didcot recently and he said the hillside was full of holes where people had been digging.”

But, he said, with the number of detectorists rapidly increasing, it could only be good news for the honest side of a healthy hobby which also helps paint a



Viking items found in Watlington

picture of English history over the past 3,000 years.

Metal detectors cost anything from £30 for a starter model to hundreds of pounds for the most advanced.

Some detectorists join societies like the Oxford Blues Metal Detecting Club, which discusses finds and outings at its website obmdc.co.uk

Mr Jones said: “It’s like fishing – you get that beep on the detector and you never know what’s down there. If you find something nice it is just such a buzz.”

“There is an absolutely amazing amount of medieval and Roman history in this area, I’ve got a room full of thimbles, musket balls and coins at home.”

Anyone can go metal detecting on farmland if they have the landowner’s permission. The 1996 Treasure Act defines treasure as any object more than 10 per cent precious metal and 3,000 years old.

Mr Jones’s axe head was 3,000 years old, but did not contain precious metal so he will be allowed to keep it. He said he hoped to loan it to museums.

Special licence for festive events

LANDLORDS and owners of licensed premises have been reminded they may need to get a special licence to host events this Christmas.

Cherwell District Council has said anyone who wants to extend opening hours, or members of the public organising events with entertainment or alcohol being sold, must apply to it for a temporary event notice (TEN).

The licence is for any event with fewer than 500 people and can last up to 168 hours, or seven days.

It is needed where alcohol is sold, there are indoor sports taking place, music is played or films, plays, dancing, boxing, wrestling, or other entertainments are being put on.



Events and extended hours require a TEN

Carols and religious services are exempt.

See gov.uk/temporary-events-notice, email licensing@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or call 01295 753744.

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County’s treasure trove reputation looks set to continue

THE woman in charge of Oxfordshire’s treasure has said there is no reason why the county’s reputation for being brimming with finds should change.

As finds liaison officer, Anni Byard’s job is to record all treasure dug up and try to buy it for the public museums.

Last Tuesday, she sat in on the latest treasure inquest for the county, when Oxfordshire Coroner Darren Salter ruled that an 18th-century gold ring, a 3rd-century coin hoard and a medieval gold pendant were treasure trove.

Ms Byard said: “This has been the best year for Oxfordshire since the Treasure Act was passed in 1996.”



Finds officer Anni Byard with a 14th-century silver spoon

“Oxfordshire has been a treasure trove over the years and there is no sign that this trend is going to dry up.”

The county’s museum service has recorded 41 cases of treasure this year; up 46 per cent on 2014. This month, it recorded the 25,000th artefact found by the public: a Roman coin discovered at the Hanneys.

Ms Byard said the main reason for the rise was an increase in honest metal detectorists declaring their finds and outcompeting “night hawkers”.

She said: “There is a lot less tolerance of night hawkers; these thieves who dig lots of holes, take the stuff and sell it.”

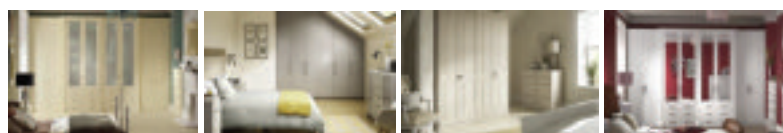
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Huge Force of nature

STAR WARS EPISODE VII: THE FORCE AWAKENS (12A, 135 mins)
A sci-fi adventure with Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, John Boyega and Domhnall Gleeson. Director: JJ Abrams

THE nail-biting wait is almost over. More than 10 years after Anakin Skywalker was seduced by the dark side of the Force and wielded a lightsabre in battle against Obi-Wan Kenobi in *Revenge Of The Sith*, the seventh chapter of George Lucas's sprawling saga lands in a whirlwind of frenzied hype.

Director JJ Abrams, who revitalised the *Star Trek* franchise, helms this new instalment, set about 30 years after the events of *Return Of The Jedi*.

Plot details have stayed under a veil of secrecy since the film began shooting in April 2014 and Abrams has masterminded a refreshingly restrained marketing campaign that has propelled ardent fans to the brink of meltdown with each behind-the-scenes photograph or trailer.

Han Solo (Harrison Ford), Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) and sister Leia (Carrie Fisher) – now referred to as General Organa – bear the emotional scars of their encounters with the dark side of the Force, which is led by Supreme Leader Snoke (Andy Serkis) and his protegee, Kylo Ren (Adam Driver).

This battle brings together new heroes and villains, including scavenger Rey (Daisy Ridley), stormtrooper Finn (John Boyega) who possesses a vital artefact, and Resistance X-wing pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac).

Their fates entwine with pirate Maz Kanata (Lupita Nyong'o), First Order base leader General Hux (Domhnall Gleeson) and beloved Chewbacca (Peter Mayhew), C-3PO (Anthony Daniels) and R2-D2 (Kenny Baker).

Prepare for record-breaking box office takings, because the Force is still strong.



Storm troopers are back for one of the most eagerly anticipated sequels of all time, above; right, Charlie Brown and Sisters



SISTERS (15, 118 mins) A comedy/romance with Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, James Brolin and Dianne Wiest. Director: Jason Moore

YOU can't choose your family, but you can berate, undermine, sabotage and deceive them.

Only your loved ones can forgive the petty and vindictive transgressions of growing up.

In Jason Moore's raucous and potty-mouthed comedy, chalk and cheese siblings rediscover their childhoods and rub salt into old wounds as they look for a path through the detritus of their fortysomething routines.

Tina Fey and Amy Poehler share sparkling screen chemistry as the dysfunctional siblings.

They are the film's strongest asset, wringing chuckles from Paula Pell's hit and miss script in an entertaining portrait of modern womanhood.

SNOOPY AND CHARLIE BROWN: THE PEANUTS MOVIE (U, 93 mins)
An animated family comedy. Director: Steve Martino

IF UNABASHED sweetness is your weakness, you will be helpless in the company of Snoopy and Charlie Brown.

Written by Craig and Bryan Schulz, the son and grandson of originator Charles M. Schulz, it's candy floss filmmaking: colourful, sugary and easily digested, expertly spun out of hot air by a vast team of talented animators.

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and James is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give James a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



Cake Bookworm

The Magic Strings Of Frankie Presto by Mitch Albom, hardback by Sphere, £14.99 (ebook £7.99)

SOME people strive for greatness, others want fame and fortune, while some simply aim to touch lives. Francisco "Frankie" Presto did all three. Mitch Albom follows Presto – a gifted guitarist with the ability to change lives – from his birth in a church during the Spanish War. Raised by a sardine factory owner and taught to play by a blind music teacher, Presto is sent to America at nine, with only an old guitar and six magical strings, which turn blue whenever he changes the course of someone's life.

With Music as the narrator, the novel follows Presto as he reaches great heights in the US, before disappearing into oblivion. The author beautifully weaves Presto's influence and impact into the musical landscape of the 20th century, as stars such as Hank Williams, Burt Bacharach and Tony Bennett recall

fictional encounters. This will make you laugh, cry and touch you in various ways. While at times appearing schmaltzy and predictable, this is a moving story to savour.

The Great Swindle by Pierre Le-maitre, hardback by MacLehose Press, £18.99 (ebook £5.99)

THIS novel, winner of the 2013 Prix Goncourt (France's highest literary prize), is ostensibly far from Lemaitre's previous crime novels, but it shares their complexity of character and richness of story. The story is played out in post-First World War France. As the war comes to a close, two soldiers discover that their lieutenant has murdered two of his company and attempted to cover it up by pushing a witness into a deep pit, from which he is saved at the last minute by another soldier. Bound together by this moment, the story follows their own 'great swindle' in a gratifying and complex novel.

A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig (illustrations by Chris Mould), hardback by Canongate Books, £12.99 (ebook £5.63)

MARKETING whizz-turned-best-selling novelist Matt Haig has returned with his latest book for children: the origins tale of Father Christmas. Not Saint Nicholas, but an ordinary boy called Nikolas, living in Finland, whose nickname is Christmas because that's the day he was born. Nikolas's mum died being chased by a bear and his woodcutter father is too poor to buy him a Christmas gift. When his dad goes on an expedition to find a mysterious elf village, Nikolas is left with his mean aunt. So, with a tame mouse for company, he sets off to find his father. Haig is a natural storyteller and he gradually unwraps elements of the Father Christmas tradition while cleverly exploring attitudes to foreigners. Destined to be a Christmas classic.

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Wed 30 Dec: 10am - 4pm, New Years Eve: Closed, New Years Day: Closed, Sat 2nd Jan: 9 til 5pm



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Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

DITTO Christmas Party: Corn Exchange, Market Square, Witney. DITTO (Doing It Together To Overcome) will be celebrating and invite anyone who considers themselves to be disabled, less able or a carer to come and join in the fun. 11am. Free. 07944 952658.

Abingdon Young Farmers: Manor Farm, Marcham. Social and sporting events, talks and visits to local places of interest. 7.45pm. £35-£40 per year.

Christmas grotto and elf workshop: Bicester Avenue, Wyveale Garden Centre, Oxford Road, Bicester. Become one of Santa's little helpers in his elf workshop, where you can make your own festive crafts. Then say hello to the man himself and take home a special present. Plus real ice rink. 9am. £8. 0844 288 5174.

Christmas Gift Fair: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. 9.30am. Daily, except Sundays. Free.

Christmas tree festival: St Leonard's Church, Pyrtton Lane, Watlington. 2-5pm every day until Tuesday, except Monday. Free. 01491 612788.

Christmas arts and crafts fair: Vesey Room, Old Grammar School, Church View, Bampton. Until Wednesday. Free.

Oxfordshire Craft Guild: The group is staging its Christmas selling exhibition at The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Until Wednesday. Free. 01993 811456

The Thames, Shifting Perspectives: Exhibition at Abingdon County Hall Museum, Market Place, Abingdon. Until Sunday. Free. 01235 523703.

Meditation insights: The Global Retreat Centre, Nuneham Estate, Nuneham Courtenay. A series of guided meditations. 7.30pm. Free. 01865 343551.

Linocut exhibition: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot: Inked!, an exhibition by Susan Wheeler and Diana Ashdown. Until Sunday. Free. 01235 515144.

Winter show: Junction Art Gallery, 43 Oxford Street, Woodstock: Until January 16. Free. 01993 358707.

FRIDAY

Nature Tots: Environmental Education Centre, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay. An opportunity for your pre-school children to interact with and learn from nature, with outdoor nature play, games, stories and craft on our wild and wonderful nature reserve. Refreshments provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 9.30am. £4 donation per child. Booking is essential on 01235 862024.

Abingdon Farmers' Market: Market Place, Abingdon. Variety of stalls selling local produce. 8.30am. 01235 227266.

SATURDAY

Village market: Village Hall, Church Road, Northmoor. Stalls selling local fresh meat and produce, craft and gift stalls. Refreshments available. 10am. Free. 01865 300534.

Day Out With Thomas: Didcot Railway Centre, by Didcot Parkway station. Join Thomas the Tank Engine, Sir Topham

Hatt, the Fat Controller and a team of entertainers. There will be rides and the chance for children to meet Father Christmas in his grotto for a present. Also held on Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday. £15 (for children, this includes a present). 01235 817200.

Bicester & Kidlington Ramblers: Meet at the church in Yarnton SP477117, for a moderate 12-mile circular walk to Oxford. This walk can be shortened to six-eight miles by taking the bus to return to starting point. Bring a picnic lunch. Led by Chris and Derek Parish. 9.30am. 01865 375110.

Santa steam specials: Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway, Station Approach, Chinnor. Enjoy a festive train ride and meet Santa. Every fare-paying child will receive a present from Santa and his elves. Also Sunday. 10am. Adults £11, children £10. For more information, see chinorrrailway.co.uk

Book signings: Blackwell's Bookshop, 48-51 Broad Street, Oxford. Robert Harris will be signing copies of his new novel *Dictator* and historian Antony Beevor will be signing his book *Ardenne's 1944 – Hitler's Last Gamble*, both at 1pm. 01865 333623.

SUNDAY

Family afternoon: Wychwood Forest Church is hosting activities at Charlbury Baptist Church at 2pm, making Christmas goodies, followed by refreshments and then carol singing around the Christmas Tree outside the church. For further information, call the Rev Jean Andrews, 07980 534874

MONDAY

Blackout: Museum of Oxford, St Aldate's, Oxford. Find out about how Christmas was celebrated in a time of blackouts, air raid shelters and material shortages and have a go at making your own 1940s Christmas decorations which take inspiration from the 'make do and mend' culture of the Second World War. 10.30am. Free. 01865 252334.

TUESDAY

Circular walk: Leisurely four-mile route led by Mary Gough, of Bicester and Kidlington Ramblers. Meet at Homebase car park, Launton Road, Bicester, ref. SP959230, at 10am. 07939 826412.

Comedy

THURSDAY

Hugh Brewer: Ye Olde Three Horseshoes, Sheep Street, Charlbury. Adrian Lancini plays the character Hugh Brewer, the beer expert nobody's heard of, back from rehab. As always, Hugh will attempt to inform and entertain in equal measure while delighting the audience with a beer tasting session like no other. Non-beer drinkers especially welcome. Also on Saturday. 8.30pm. £6. Booking is essential, by calling on 07816 991602.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Tom Wrigglesworth and Mickey D. They will also be performing on Friday and Saturday alongside Andrew Ryan. 8pm. £16-£17. 0871 472 0400.

FRIDAY

Festive fun: The Beacon, Wantage. Purple Cactus Comedy Club holds its Christmas event, featuring Andrew Stanley, Kate Smirthwaite, Jason Paterson. Ticket includes a mulled wine or ale. Food will be available to buy. 7.30pm. £10. 01235 763456.

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

Theatre

THURSDAY

Robin Hood: The Theatre, Chipping Norton. The Chipping Norton pantomime is full of dames and damsels, swashbuckling sword-fights and sweets by the sack-load. It tells the story of the band of Merry Men who live free in Sherwood Forest, led by their dashing young hero, righting wrongs and taking on the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham. Until January 10. £10.50-£26. 01608 642350.

Annie: New Theatre, Oxford. Jodie Prenger, a former winner of the BBC One talent show *I'd Do Anything* stars as the tyrannical Miss Hannigan in this tale, set in 1930s New York of an orphan whose luck changes when she is chosen to spend Christmas at the residence of a billionaire. It features the songs *It's a Hard Knock Life* and *Tomorrow*. Until January 3. 7.30pm plus matinées on some days. £12.50-£43.50 plus fees. See atgtickets.com/oxford

Treasure Island: North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Summertown. Production by Creation Theatre. Until January 9. Various times, £13.50-£32 plus fee. 01865 319450.

Aladdin: Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford. Until January 10. 10am, 2pm and 7pm. £24-£17. 01865 305305.

SATURDAY

The Snow Dragon: Cornerstone Arts Centre, 25 Station Road, Didcot. In Tall Stories' magical tale, Billy is a spoilt young goat and the night the legendary Snow Dragon is meant to bring more goodies, Billy bumps into a pack of hungry wolves in the forest. How will he escape and has he been naughty or nice? The Christmas show is for children aged three and over plus their families. There will be shows on Saturday at 11am, 2pm and 4pm; Sunday at 11am and 2pm; Tuesday at 11am and 2pm (relaxed performance); Wednesday at 2pm and 4pm; and Christmas Eve at 11am, 2pm and 4pm. £7-12.50, family ticket £38. 01235 515144.

WEDNESDAY

Jack and the Beanstalk: The Beacon, Wantage. TaleGate Theatre present this panto packed with songs, slapstick, silliness, breathtaking special effects and audience participation. 2pm and 7pm. £8 or £30 family of four. 01235 763456.

Music

THURSDAY

Steventon Choral Society: Village Hall, The Green, Steventon. The society presents its Sounds of Christmas concert on Thursday and Saturday. 7.30pm. Tickets at £8, under 12s free, to include drink and mince pie/nibbles, are available from Trish Napper (01235 848292), Caroline Miller (01235 834015) or Steventon Post Office.

FRIDAY

Bon Giovi: Bon Jovi tribute band play at Shush, Regent Mall, Newbury Street,

Wantage. 9pm. £10/£12 in advance, £12/£14 on the door. Tickets from Regent Furniture and Books in Wantage arcade, or wegottickets.com

Charlbury Speakeasy: The Shed, Nine Acres Lane, Charlbury. The last event of 2015 will feature music from Victrolas, who perform close harmony versions of some of the best songs from the last few decades, plus a miscellany of poetry, prose and comedy by Three-out-of-Four Wordsmen. Bring your own drink. Admission £7.50 on the door.

SATURDAY

The Hut People: Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood. One of the most entertaining world/folk acts touring today will take the audience on a voyage across the globe with their material, performing a high-octane blend of British, Nordic and European music. Support from multi-instrumental folk duo Seth Bye and Katie Griffin, who play a variety of musical styles with a folk twist. 8pm. £8 in advance, £10 on the door. 01993 831427 or wegottickets.com/wychwoodfolkclub

Handel's Messiah: Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester on Thames. Orchestra of St John's will be performing the oratorio with its choral group OSJ Voices, with Nardus Williams (soprano), Ellie Edmonds (alto), Chris Turner (tenor) and Morgan Pearse (bass). 6pm. £20-£37.50. 07775 904626.

SATURDAY

The Mighty Disco Biscuits: The Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. 8.30pm. £5 members, £8 non-members. 01993 812094.

SUNDAY

The Carice Singers: St Mary's Church, Charlbury. Programme of carols and choral music for Christmas, with audience participation on some of these. 4pm. Admission free, with a retiring collection

Carols by candlelight: Methodist Church, Charlbury. 6pm. Followed by refreshments in the schoolroom.

MONDAY

Belshazzar's Feast: Nettlebed Folk Club, The Village Club, High Street, Nettlebed. Christmas show from the folk duo, comprising Paul Hutchinson (accordion) and Bellowhead's Paul Sartin (oboe, violin and vocals), who combine accomplished musicianship and wry humour. 8pm. £13. 01628 636620 or nettlebedfolkclub

Voices Unlimited: Charlbury Memorial Hall. The group and friends celebrate the Winter Solstice with an evening of seasonal music. 7.30pm. Adults £8, children £3, to include drink and mince pie. Tickets from Post Office and Cotswold Frames in Charlbury.

TUESDAY

The Take That Experience: Tribute band play at Shush, Regent Mall, Newbury Street, Wantage. 9pm. £10/£12 in advance, £12/£14 on the

door. Tickets from Regent Furniture and Books in Wantage arcade, or wegottickets.com

Dance

THURSDAY

Sequence and ballroom dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Teaching from 7.30-8.45pm. Practise what you have learnt until 10.30pm. £2. 01993 811473.

FRIDAY

Country and western: Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton. Dancing to The Michael Muldoon Band at this event, hosted by Carterton Country Music Club in aid of Cancer Research UK. 8.30pm. £8 on the door. 01993 850682.

Ceroc: Dance to a mixture of music – up and down-tempo with lots of different flavours – at Ceroc Oxford's party night. 8.30pm-1am. £12 on the door.

Club Rio: Marlborough Club, Broadway, Didcot. The venue for over 30s features dance music from the 70s to the present day. 9pm-1am. £5. 07789 428795.

MONDAY

Scottish country dancing: The Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Beginners welcome, no need to bring a partner. 8pm. £5 to join, then £2 a session. 01235 528154.

Morris winter practice: Recreation Hall, Main Road, Long Hanborough. Masons Apron Northwest welcomes new and experienced dancers to join its practices. The side has a full summer diary for local danceouts. Musicians are welcome to join the band. 8.15pm. 01993 200717.

TUESDAY

Tea dance: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Enjoy a dance and a chat with a friendly crowd. Entrance includes tea and cake. 2pm. £2. 01993 811473.

Film

THURSDAY

What's Up, Doc? (U): Abingdon Health and Wellbeing Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. Screwball comedy, starring Barbara Streisand and Ryan O'Neal, about four guests at a San Francisco hotel with identical bags who become embroiled in a comedy of manners and lost luggage. Screening by Abingdon College and District Society. 7.45pm. £6. 01235 521976.

SUNDAY

Christmas film festival: The Beacon, Wantage, is screening three festive films during the day. 11am, *Elf* (PG): After inadvertently wreaking havoc on the elf community due to his ungainly size, Buddy (Will Ferrell), a man raised as an elf at the North Pole, is sent to the USA in search of his true identity. 2pm, *Holiday Inn* (U): In this classic Irving Berlin musical, Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire) vie for the affections of a beautiful Marjorie Reynolds. 5pm: *Love Actually* (15) Nine intertwined stories examine the complexities of the one emotion that connects us all: love. Set during a frantic month before Christmas in London. Starring Hugh Grant, Colin Firth, Alan Rickman, Laura Linney and Keira Knightley. All tickets £2.



Mark Bell twice came close to breaking the deadlock in Banbury United's goalless draw at Shortwood United

Bell denied in United's draw

Puritans now ten league games without defeat

BANBURY United's unbeaten league run is now into double figures, but they could not find a way past hosts Shortwood United in a goalless draw.

A heavy pitch and squally wind made life difficult for both teams in the Evo-Stik Southern League Division 1 South & West clash.

Mark Bell tested Tom Parry, while Ross Staley hit a post for the hosts.

Bell went close again, but the Puritans had to settle for a point, which means it is now ten league games without defeat.

Banbury United: Harding, White, Steedman, Martin, Wise, Gunn, Stanbridge, Nash, Johnson, Bell,

McEachran. Subs: Joyce, Welch-Hayes, Kalakoutis, Westbrook, Browne.

Attendance: 91.

THE draw came after a much-changed United side bowed out of the Birmingham Senior Cup at Lye Town.

Leam Howards put the visitors ahead in the second-round tie, but after Louis Joyce was dismissed for an off-the-ball incident, Lye equalised.

The tie went to penalties, where only Jon Steedman scored for Banbury in a 4-1 shoot-out defeat.

This Saturday the Puritans will put their good form to the test when leaders Cinderford Town visit

the Spencer Stadium.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE										
Division 1 South & West										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Cinderford Tn	21	15	4	2	45	14	49			
North Leigh	22	14	3	5	49	18	45			
Winchester City	20	13	4	3	55	24	43			
Tiverton Tn	22	12	7	3	37	23	43			
Banbury Utd	21	11	8	2	46	22	41			
Swindon Super	20	12	3	5	36	20	39			
Taunton Tn	19	11	5	3	35	15	38			
Evesham Utd	21	10	6	5	37	21	36			
Shortwood Utd	21	11	1	9	36	35	34			
Bishops Cleeve	21	9	7	5	33	34	34			
Didcot Tn	20	9	4	7	40	33	31			
Larkhall Ath	22	8	7	7	39	33	31			
M'gotsfield Utd	22	7	5	10	34	42	26			
Yate Tn	22	6	10	6	26	29	24			
Slimbridge	22	6	6	10	24	30	24			
AFC Totton	22	7	2	13	37	46	23			
Marlow	19	6	3	10	32	36	21			
Bridgwater Tn	21	5	3	13	20	42	18			
Wantage Tn	21	5	2	14	28	38	17			
Wimborne Tn	21	5	2	14	38	51	17			
Burnham	23	4	4	15	23	49	16			
Bashley	21	0	0	21	7	102	0			

Heywood the architect for Banbury win

BANBURY stay top of Midlands 2 West (South) with a 27-0 bonus point home win over Nuneaton Old Edwardians.

Choosing to play with a strong wind, Banbury took the lead with a try from flanker Sean Bannister, after good work by man-of-the-match James Heywood and Sam Stoop.

Skipper Ed Phillips landed the conversion and added a penalty.

Heywood was also instrumental in Banbury's other first-half tries, scored by winger Adam Walsh and fullback Joe Mills as they built up a 20-0 lead.

After turning around to face the wind, Banbury looked to the effective boot of Stoop to keep Old Eds pinned in their half.

The hosts added one more try.

Lock forward Matt Brock stole a line-out which led to Heywood scoring himself, for Phillips to convert.

They will look for an eighth straight win in all competitions on Saturday, with a trip to Pinley.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

There has been a lot of talk about your life recently, but not all of the comments have been positive ones and it's these you're focusing on at the moment. Don't Aries. Try to give your time and attention to the constructive influences and comments. It's the key to you feeling happy again. Ring now so we can make the most of life.

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Those around you want to ask you questions which I know you're not willing to answer. It appears some news you have heard has hit you pretty hard and you've been left feeling unsure of what your reaction should be. Life is good. This is a process which has shown you who you can and can't rely on. Ring now so I can explain fully.

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Someone you thought you could trust has let you down and, in the process, you are left with a lot to do this week in very little time. Putting more time and energy into the older faces in your life can help you find assistance where you thought there was none. Ring now to hear why it's worth travelling far for career opportunities this month.

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

You're rushing through life at the moment, when you should be stopping to smell the roses. The Sun has filled you with the energy you need to complete all that is ahead plus more, so it's vital that you make the most of the coming days. You can start by making up with the close one you've missed more than you can say. Ring now for answers.

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

It's been hard for anyone to get a straight answer out of you recently, as you've battled to understand your own emotions, let alone feel what anyone else thinks or wants from you. Someone from your past wants back into your life, but remember why you left in the first place. Ring to hear how selling goes well now.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Travel is well starred this week and enables you to broaden your horizons and to take a look at the bigger picture. That down spell you experienced is replaced by positive emotions as the Sun slowly but surely prepares to move into your sign. Trust your instincts. They're there for a reason. Ring now so I can guide you through life safely.

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

With newfound energy in your chart, there is nothing you want that you cannot have. You start to finally look at life as if the glass is half full, instead of half empty. Talk of travel proves exciting and many of you Cancerians should find yourself with the chance to go somewhere you've long desired to visit. Ring now for an important message from Neptune.

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

The past and present mix together well this month and you discover that people you thought would not, or could not assist you, are in fact willing to go out of their way to help you take back control of life. A jealous family member needs to be kept at a distance so they can see where their behaviour will get them. Ring now to reveal all.

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

With an air of mischief in the planets, it's clear to see that you're in the mood for some really naughty behaviour. The best advice I can give you Leo is to keep out of the way of those you know you can't afford to get into trouble with. If not, this may be your last chance keep a close one's faith in you. Ring now for more on this complex week.

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

There seems to be some miscommunication in the stars this week, which will make it hard for you to fully understand what anyone really wants from you. Try to stick to written agreements. You won't go wrong if you do. Last minute personal invites this weekend can change the course of your future. Ring now so I can reveal your destiny.

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Although arguments are not usually a good thing, this is one week where it would actually do you and your close ones good to clear the air. You've needed to get some things off your chest for the last ten days now. Talking to, not at those concerned is the key to you keeping respect and control. Ring now for a hot seduction prediction.

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

This could be quite an expensive week for you Pisces, as you try to ensure that you live up to all of the promises you made. Fellow Pisces can help you get the job done and can also show you how you can be better at your job too, as they understand your ways better than most. Ring now to hear what great change will soon affect the home.

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IN PARLIAMENT
HOUSE OF COMMONS
SESSION 2015-16
HIGH SPEED RAIL (LONDON – WEST MIDLANDS) BILL
ADDITIONAL PROVISION 5 (DECEMBER 2015)
AND NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL
INFORMATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that it is intended that the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is considering this Bill should consider certain amendments to the Bill for the following amongst other purposes:–

1. Amendments to authorise revised proposals for the construction of works and acquisition of lands:

London Borough of Hillingdon,

- An access road (Work No. 1/68A)
- Land required for diversion or installation of, or works to, utilities apparatus
- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

County of Buckinghamshire, District of Aylesbury Vale, Parish of Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Parish of Grendon Underwood,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Parish of Hogshaw,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

County of Warwickshire, District of North Warwickshire, Parish of Middleton and County of Staffordshire, District of Lichfield, Parish of Drayton Bassett,

- A gas main diversion (Work No. 3/53)

County of Staffordshire, District of Lichfield, Parish of Weeford,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Parish of Hints with Canwell,

- An access road (Work No. 3/73)

Parish of Longdon,

- Land required for diversion and installation of overhead electric lines

Metropolitan Borough of Solihull, Parish of Bickenhill,

- Additional land for a people mover (Work No. 3/20).

2. Amendment of clause 63 of the Bill to refer to the additional Environmental Information published in connection with the Bill in September 2014, July 2015, September 2015, October 2015 and to the additional Environmental Information referred to in this notice below.

3. In connection with the construction of the works specified in 1 above, provision for the stopping up or diversion of the public footpaths and bridleways specified in Schedule 1 to this notice.

Plans and Sections, with a Book of Reference to those Plans, relating to the proposed Amendments will be available for public inspection at the offices and libraries referred to in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this Notice.

An Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments (ES) and Supplementary Environmental Statement (SES) together with a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) will also available for public inspection at each of the offices and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this notice and for inspection at the following offices: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 020 7944 4908, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2 and Eversheds LLP, 3-5 Melville Street, Edinburgh EH3 7PE.

Copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill will be available for public inspection at each of the offices and libraries mentioned in Parts I and II of Schedule 2 to this notice and for inspection at the following office: High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 020 7944 4908, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2

Copies of the ES, SES and NTS and copies of the proposed Amendments together with copies of the Bill will also be available for sale from High Speed Two (HS2) Limited, 5th floor, Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT, Tel: 020 7944 4908, Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk, www.gov.uk/hs2

The proposed Amendments and the Bill are available on the UK Parliament's website at www.parliament.uk. The Plans and Sections, ES, SES and NTS are available on the Department for Transport's website at www.gov.uk/transport and via HS2 Ltd's website at www.gov.uk/hs2

Any person who wishes to make comments on the ES and SES should send them either by post to: FREEPOST HS2 AP5 CONSULTATION, or by email to: HS2PhaseOneAPDecember2015@dialoguebydesign.co.uk on or before 22 January 2016.

Please note: if you wish to send your response by recorded delivery or special delivery, please telephone the HS2 Ltd Community Relations Helpdesk on 0207 944 4908 to arrange this.

Anyone wishing to send comments should note that responses will be published on a publicly-accessible website in due course, but the names, addresses and signatures of individuals will not be published. As it is not possible for the substance of responses to be checked to ascertain whether they contain other personal data, you should not include information in your response that could identify you unless you are content for it to be made public.

If you do not want any of your response to be published you should clearly mark it as “Confidential” in the “subject” of the email or at the top of your letter. However please note the following two paragraphs.

If you want the information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that all information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to disclosure in accordance with access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). Under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with confidentiality obligations. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain in your response why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If a request for disclosure of the information you provide is received full account will be taken of your explanation, but no assurance can be given that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department for Transport or HS2 Ltd.

Please note that all responses received, whether marked Confidential or not, will be passed on in full to the Houses of Parliament and their appointed Assessor, who will analyse the responses and make a report to Parliament. That report will not contain your personal data.

Submitting comments to the Secretary of State does not affect the entitlement of persons to make objections to the proposed Amendments by depositing a petition in the House of Commons referred to below.

The Bill has been introduced in the House of Commons as a public Bill. In the House of Commons, by the terms of the Order made by that House, objection to the proposed Amendments may be made by depositing a Petition against them in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons not later than the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the day on which the first newspaper notice of the Amendments is published. Any such Petition must therefore be deposited in the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons not later than 2pm on Friday 8 January 2016.

In the House of Lords, objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it in the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, and the latest date for depositing such a petition against the Bill may be subject to an Order made by that House or, if no Order is made, will be the tenth day after that on which the Bill receives its First reading in that House. In the latter case, if this date is a Sunday, Christmas Day or Bank Holiday, or a day on which the House does not sit, the final date for depositing may be postponed.

Information about the deposit of such Petitions may be obtained from either the Private Bill Office, House of Commons or the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, or from the undermentioned Parliamentary Agents.

DATED 10 December 2015

DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT, Great Minster House, 33 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 4DR.

Winckworth Sherwood LLP		Eversheds LLP	
Parliamentary Agents, Minerva House 5 Montague Close, London SE1 9BB		Parliamentary Agents, One Wood Street London EC2V 7WS	
SCHEDULE 1			
Area	Footpath, bridleway or cycleway to be stopped up or diverted	Permanent/temporary	
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County of Buckinghamshire			
District of South Bucks, Parish of Denham	Bridleway DEN/3/1 Ricks 002	Permanent with substitution	
County of Northamptonshire			
District of South Northamptonshire, Parish of Greatworth	Footpath AN13	Permanent with substitution	
County of Warwickshire			
District of North Warwickshire Parish of Middleton	Footpath T15	Temporary	
Metropolitan Borough of Solihull			
Parish of Bickenhill	Footpath M104	Temporary	
County of Staffordshire			
District of Lichfield, Parish of Weeford	Bridleway Weeford 0.479	Temporary	
Parish of Hints with Canwell	Bridleway Hints 4	Permanent with substitution	
	Footpath Hints 19	Permanent with substitution	
SCHEDULE 2			
PART I			
Officers with whom the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for inspection.			
In Greater London –			
• Principal Policy Officer - Transport, Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London, SE1 2AA			
• Borough Solicitor, London Borough of Hillingdon, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB8 1UW			
In Buckinghamshire –			
• Project Officer, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Walton St, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UA			
• Head of Customer Services, South Bucks District Council, Capswood, Oxford Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 4LH			
• Director, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FF			
• Parish Clerk, Denham Parish Council, Rear of Denham Village Memorial Hall, Village Road, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5BN			
• Parish Clerk, Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell Parish Council, Halton Lodge, 40 Brook End, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, HP22 5RJ			
• Parish Clerk, Hogshaw Parish Meeting, Hill End Farm, Hogshaw, Buckingham, MK18 3JY			
• Parish Clerk, Grendon Underwood Parish Council, 32 Campbell Close, Lyndon Village, Buckingham, MK18 7HP			
In Northamptonshire –			
• Team Leader, Transport Planning, Northamptonshire County Council, County Hall, Northampton, NN1 1ED			
• Lead Officer Transport Policy, South Northamptonshire District Council, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, Northamptonshire, NN12 6AD			
• Parish Clerk, Greatworth Parish Council, 1 Meadow Rise, Tiffield, Northants, NN12 8AP			
In Warwickshire –			
• HS2 Project Manager, Warwickshire County Council, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4SX			
• Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council, South Street, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 1DE			
• Parish Clerk, Middleton Parish Council, The Orchard, Coppice Lane, Middleton, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B78 2AR			
In Staffordshire –			
• HS2 Project Manager, Staffordshire County Council, Wedgwood Building, Stafford, ST16 2DH			
• Strategic Director - Democratic, Development & Legal Services, Lichfield District Council, District Council House, Frog Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6YY			
• Parish Clerk, Drayton Bassett Parish Council, 57 St Leonards View, Polesworth, Tamworth, B78 1JZ			
• Hints with Canwell Parish Council, c/o Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QG and Tamworth Library, Corporation Street, Tamworth, Staffordshire, B79 7DN			
• Parish Clerk, Weeford Parish Council, 30 Fecknam Way, Lichfield, WS13 6BY			
• Longdon Parish Council, c/o Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QG			
In Solihull –			
• Head of Policy & Spatial Planning, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Council House, Manor Square, Solihull, B91 3QB			
• Parish Clerk, Bickenhill Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Bickenhill Road, Solihull, B37 7ER			
PART II			
Libraries where the Plans and Sections, Book of Reference, Environmental Statement relating to the Amendments, Supplementary Environmental Statement and Non-Technical Summary and proposed Amendments together with a copy of the Bill have been deposited for public inspection.			
• Ickenham Library, Long Lane, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8RE			
• South Ruislip Library, Victoria Road, South Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 0JE			
• Harefield Library, Park Lane, Harefield, Middlesex, UB9 6BJ			
• Buckingham Library, Verney Close, Buckingham, Buckinghamshire, MK18 1JP			
• Chalfont St Peter Community Library, High Street, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire, SL9 9QA			
• Aylesbury Study Centre, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UU			
• Wendover Community Library, High Street, Wendover, Buckinghamshire, HP22 6DU			
• Winslow Library, Park Road, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3DN			
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• Leamington Spa Library, Royal Pump Rooms, Parade, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4AA			
• Lichfield Library, The Friary, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 6QG			
• Shenstone Library, Main Street, Shenstone, Staffordshire, WS14 0NF			
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In brief

- **EUROPEAN** road safety body Euro NCAP has released the results of its latest crash test assessments, with mixed results for some models. Thanks to the addition of autonomous emergency braking on many models, 11 of the vehicles achieved the full five-star rating. Jaguar's XE and XF saloons, Kia's Sportage and Optima, the Vauxhall Astra, the BMW X1, Mercedes-Benz GLC, Renault Megane and Talisman (not sold in the UK), the Infiniti Q30 and the Lexus RX were awarded the highest overall score. Nissan's NP300 Navara achieved four stars, which good for a pick-up.
- **ALMOST** one in five business drivers does not take breaks on long drives. The Highway Code recommends a 15-minute break every two hours, but 18 per cent of business drivers don't bother. The Masternaut survey does not identify reasons, but reveals that about half the 2,000 surveyed either wound down a window or drank strong tea or coffee to stay alert. Nearly a third listened to loud music.

CakeMotoring

banburycake.co.uk/cars

A family-friendly Mitsubishi drive

Auto facts

Model: Mitsubishi ASX ZC-H
Price: £25,134
Insurance group: 20 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (combined): 48.7mpg
Top speed: 118mph
Length: 429.5cm/169in
Width: 177cm/70in
Luggage capacity: 15.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 13.2 gallons/60 litres
CO2 emissions: 152g/km
Warranty: Five years/62,500 miles

By David Duffy
 david.duffy@nqo.com

MOST parents would not entertain the notion of ferrying their little ones around in an overtly high-performance car, such as the Mitsubishi Lancer Evo.

But how about taking away the Janspeed exhaust system, six-pot Alcon brakes and Recaro leather bucket seats from the firebreather and swapping the Evo's 440 horsepower engine for something a little more economical?

Because hidden beneath the sensible, versatile bodywork of the family-friendly ASX sits the Lancer Evolution platform. Small wonder then that the ASX – or Active Sports Crossover – has the balance, poise and dynamic road-holding to give rivals like the Kia Sportage, Skoda Yeti and Nissan Qashqai a proper run for their money.

The latest model comes with a choice of three Euro 6 emission-compliant engines, a choice of two or all-wheel drive and top-of-the-class safety features, including seven airbags, which have helped the car to a five-star Euro NCAP safety rating.

There are three trim levels and even the entry-level model is



Even the Lancer Evo's entry-level model is loaded with equipment

loaded with equipment such as alloy wheels, air conditioning, traction control and remote keyless entry.

The test model came in top-of-the-range ASX ZC-H trim and with that comes an integrated audio/sat nav system with a seven-inch touch-screen display; DAB and FM/AM/LW radio; CD player; SD card compatibility and reversing camera, that will do everything bar make a cup of tea for you. Getting the most out of the system requires detailed study of its own handbook, which alone runs to a hefty 230 pages.

Comfort is guaranteed with an electrically-adjustable driver's seat, and twin-setting, heated front seats.

The list of equipment on the test model would fill a page but suffice to say everything from self-levelling xenon headlamps, tyre pressure monitoring system and parking sensors, to cruise control, headlamp washers, leather upholstery and panoramic glass sunroof is fitted.

Power on the test car came from a punchy, 148 horsepower, 2.2-litre turbo diesel engine, linked to a six-speed automatic gearbox.

Sales of 4x4s up 9.9 per cent

THE biggest growth in car sales in 2015 is not in the crossover or supermini sectors as you might expect. Instead, the best-performing market sector is 4x4s, which saw a 9.1 per cent rise in sales on 2014.

These figures are for used 4x4s, but new all-wheel drive cars are also rising in the charts. Whether it's a full-size off-roader, crossover or four-wheel-drive saloon, UK car buyers are increasingly likely to choose a car with all of its wheels driven.

Many cite the extra grip and traction when the weather turns bad. Some say they need the added ground clearance of a 4x4 for the roads they drive on, while other drivers note trailer towing ability.

Whatever the reason, and there are plenty, choosing a 4x4 over a

two-wheel-drive does mean making compromises. The most obvious is fuel economy, as the all-wheel drive transmission creates extra resistance that means more fuel is spent.

All-wheel-drive also adds extra weight as you need an extra propshaft and differential to transfer the drive to the other axle. Some 4x4s also have a third differential between front and rear axles to vary the power sent to either axle.

While 4x4 systems certainly help with grip, this comes at the expense of increased drag on the tyres. In turn, this means the engine has to work harder to overcome this and turn the wheels of the car as intended.

Another consequence of all-wheel-drive is there are more components that need to be

served regularly and replaced when they wear out. Four-wheel-drive cars tend to get through tyres more quickly too, so you will have to budget for this when considering one as your car.

All of this will not deter anyone who truly needs an all-wheel-drive car for their work or the type of driving they encounter daily. For the rest of us, however, the occasional flutter of snow is a poor excuse for buying a heavier, less fuel-efficient car over one that can do the job just as well with two-wheel-drive.

Why do people continue to choose 4x4s, then? A great deal is down to the style of the cars and their perceived safety as the position of the driver high up in a car generally feels more substantial than in the average hatchback or saloon.

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2006 56 FORD FOCUS 1.8 Ghia. 5 door, silver, local car, aircon, alloys, PAS, Heated front windscreen, radio/cd, electric windows and door mirrors, remote central locking, etc. Sold with a new MOT, a full service, and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear..... **£2,995**

2005 55 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 LIFE TWINPORT. Metallic Dark Grey. 5 Door. Local car. Lovely condition. Good service record. PAS. Remote central locking. Radio/CD. Electric windows and mirrors. Air-conditioning. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a full service. HPI clear **£2650.00**

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2005 05 NISSAN MICRA 1.2S, metallic blue, 5 door hatchback, 2 owners, local car, PAS, electric windows, remote central locking, cd/player, etc, very nice condition, drives very well. Sold with a new MOT, a full service, and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear **£2,350**

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2002 51 FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCi, 5 door hatchback, metallic blue, local car in very nice condition throughout, PAS, alloys, aircon, remote central locking, electric windows and doors and mirrors, radio/cd, very nice example of this popular large diesel car, Sold with a new MOT, a full service, and a new cambelt kit, HPI clear **£1,995**

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